



Atty. Dkt. No. 040302-0592

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Takeshi KIMURA et al.
Title: METHOD AND VEHICLE REACTING TO THE
DETECTION OF AN IN-PATH OBSTACLE
Appl. No.: 10/591,467
International Filing Date: 03/02/2005
371(c) Date: 09/01/2006
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 3661
Confirmation Number: 1871

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

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TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

In a counterpart Japanese application documents A3 and A4 were cited in an Office Action dated May 29, 2007, received by Applicants. According to an English translation of the Japanese Office Action obtained by Applicants' representative, the Japanese Patent Office made certain characterizations of the references. The disclosure of these characterizations should not be construed as an admission of or agreement to the opinions expressed in the Japanese Office Action. A copy of the Japanese Office Action and English language translation are attached herewith.

Document A5 discloses a safety device for a vehicle.

Documents A6 and A8 disclose an obstacle detector for a vehicle.

Document A7 discloses a travel control device for a vehicle.

Documents A1 and A3 belong to the same "patent family," whereby the English language document may assist the PTO in understanding the content of the non-English language document.

Documents A2 and A4 belong to the same "patent family," whereby the English language document may assist the PTO in understanding the content of the non-English language document.

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Applicants wish to advise the Examiner that documents JP 2003-327018 and JP 2000-343980, cited in the Japanese Office Action, were previously submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement dated November 16, 2006, and are not provided herewith.

Unless otherwise indicated, no English translation is readily available (not considering machine-generated translations that may be freely available online, to both the Applicant and the PTO) for each of the non-English language documents. However, a commercially available English language abstract is provided herewith, where indicated on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. Inasmuch as Applicants have endeavored to provide at least one item that complies with the requirement for a "concise explanation of relevance" for each of the non-English language documents, each of these documents has been submitted in compliance with the PTO requirements and should be considered by the Examiner (37 CFR §1.97, §1.98 and MPEP §609).

Applicants respectfully request that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Although Applicant believes that no fee is required for this Request, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Request to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By Date June 20, 2007


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Approved for use through 03/31/2007. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: June 20, 2007 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known Application Number 10/591,457 Filing Date 03/02/2005 First Named Inventor Takeshi KIMURA Art Unit 3661 Examiner Name Unassigned Attorney Docket Number 040302-0592					
Sheet	1	of	1						

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	5,699,040	12-16-1997	MATSUDA	
	A2	5,995,037	11-30-1999	MATSUDA ET AL.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ²
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
A3	JP 9-145737 A		06-06-1997	HONDA MOTOR CO., LTD.		Abst.
A4	JP 11-023705 A		01-29-1999	HONDA MOTOR CO., LTD.		Abst.
A5	JP 7-057182 A		03-03-1995	MAZDA MOTOR CORP.		Abst.
A6	JP 2004-038245 A		02-05-2004	NISSAN MOTOR CO., LTD.		Abst.
A7	JP 2003-173500 A		06-20-2003	HONDA MOTOR CO., LTD.		Abst.
A8	JP 8-161697 A		06-21-1996	MAZDA MOTOR CO., LTD.		Abst.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner Signature	/Helal Algahaim/	Date Considered	08/20/2008
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609 Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered included copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For a Japanese patent application, enter the Japanese publication number. 5 Enter the year of the first prior art disclosure, as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.58. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the public) a claim for priority based on the foreign patent application. 7 Indicate the type of information being submitted, e.g., "Information regarding the gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20590-4000." 8 If you are filing this form electronically, please contact the USPTO at 1-800-368-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1455, Arlington Heights, VA 22203-1455.

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /H.A./